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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
| 10/657,279 | 09/08/2003 | Brian W. Fallis | 062891.1139 | 1389 |
| 5073 | 7590 | 05/01/2007 | EXAMINER | |
| BAKER BOTTS L.L.P. | | | PHAM, BRENDA H | |
| 2001 ROSS AVENUE | | | | |
| SUITE 600 | | | ART UNIT | |
| DALLAS, TX 75201-2980 | | | PAPER NUMBER | |
| | | | 2616 | |
| SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE | | NOTIFICATION DATE | DELIVERY MODE | |
| 2 MONTHS | | 05/01/2007 | ELECTRONIC | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 2 MONTHS from 05/01/2007.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/657,279

Applicant(s)

FALLIS ET AL.

Examiner

Brenda Pham

Art Unit

2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 09/08/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Ex parte Quayle

1. This application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, **(the steps of communicating a message from a first switch in the stackable switch system to a second switch in a stackable switch system; determining, based on the communicated message, that the first switch in the stackable switch system has the same switch number as the second switch in the stackable switch system; in response to the determination that the first and second switches have the same switch number, determining whether the first switch should keep the switch number or select a new switch number; changing, by the first switch, the switch number of the first switch; changing, by the second switch, the switch number of the second switch; selecting, as a new switch number for the first switch, the lowest available switch number; communicating the selected new switch number to the second switch.)** must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended

replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 11-15, 17-24, 26-28 are objected to because of the following informalities: limitation "operable to" in claim 11, line 4; claim 12, line 18; claim 13, line 22-23; claim 14, line 27-28; claim 15, line 1-2; claim 17, line 13-14; claim 18, line 29-30; claim 19, line 1-2; claim 20, line 5; claim 21, line 19, claim 22, line 24, claim 23, line 29; claim 24, line 1-2; claim 26, line 14; claim 27, line 30 and claim 28, line 2. Appropriate correction is required.

Examiner does not give patentable weight to "operable to" because such language that suggests or makes optional but does require steps to be performed or

does not limit a claim to a particular structure does not limit the scope of a claim or claim limitation.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art made of record fails to teach or fairly suggests in combination a method for resolving switch number conflicts in a stackable switch system comprising: communicating a message from a first switch in the stackable switch system to a second switch in a stackable switch system; determining, based on the communicated message, that the first switch in the stackable switch system has the same switch number as the second switch in the stackable switch system; and in response to the determination that the first and second switches have the same switch number, determining whether the first switch should keep the switch number or select a new switch number.

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is consider pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Yu et al (US 5,805,817) disclose method and device for setting terminal state and assigning ID number for concentrator.

Salett et al disclose stackable switch port collapse mechanism.

Lee et al (US 7,145,864 B2) disclose redundant link management switch for use in a stack of switches and method thereof.

Weyman et al (US 2003/0147412 A1) disclose stacked network routers.

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Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brenda Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-3135. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn D. Feild, can be reached on (571) 272-2092.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

April 25, 2007
Brenda Pham

Brenda A. Pham

**BRENDA PHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER**